

**Riverborder Forest Legacy Area** (Boone, Callaway, Cape Girardeau, Cole, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, Montgomery, Perry, St. Charles, St. Genevieve, St. Louis, and Warren Counties)

**Description and Special Values:**

The proposed Riverborder Forest Legacy Area is located in east central Missouri in the Missouri and Mississippi River watersheds. This area consists of a belt of deeply dissected hills and bluffs bordering the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and several relatively smooth karst plains. Relief in the river hills is mostly 200-350 feet. Slopes are steep and bedrock exposures are common. Loess, occasionally very thick, mantles the uplands of the entire subdivision. Geologic strata are mantles the uplands of the entire subsection. The ecoregion was historically forested in oak savanna and woodland, oak and mixed-hardwood forests, and occasional prairie and glade openings. Today, land use is extremely varied, including row crops, improved pasture, and densely wooded valleys. Urbanization pressures are great in the multi-county St. Louis metropolitan area and in the Columbia-Jefferson City metro-plex. (Nigh and Schroeder, 2002)

Today, the most rugged areas are still largely covered in dense second-growth oak and mixed-hardwood forests. Some of the oldest and most productive forests of the state are found in this area. Low-relief uplands and broad bottoms have a mixture of fescue pasture and cropland. Bottomland forests are mainly small, isolated fragments. Glades are often overgrown with woody invaders, and prairie openings have been eliminated, (Nigh and Schroeder, 2002).

Overall population density is higher here than in the remainder of the state, although many of the counties in this FLA remain relatively rural in character. The Missouri River corridor, along with three interstate highways, has had a profound influence on the development in this area. 100-year flood events in 1993 and 1995 have had a major impact on the use and development near the Missouri River. Much of the adjacent cropland is under Federal conservation easements or used for mitigation of developed wetlands nearby. Duck clubs are common in many of the Missouri River bottoms between St. Louis and Columbia. Primary forest industry is somewhat limited in this area, but secondary industry is important in parts of the metropolitan St. Louis area. Development pressure is extreme in the urban fringe and along the I-70, I-55 and I-44 corridors. Rural forest and farm land is being parceled and fragmented into smaller acreage tracts and home sites throughout this area. Land values and development pressure is as high here as anywhere in the state. Restoration and protection of bottomland forests and riparian areas is a critical need in this proposed FLA. Also, the conservation of contiguous blocks of forest is an important goal in this area.

This proposed FLA was selected due to the presence of several of the eligibility criteria found here. Most important criteria represented here are the high conversion pressure and the big river systems. Bottomland and riparian forest protection will be important considerations here. Maintenance of large tracts of contiguous forest is important in portions of this FLA, especially where associated with karst features and conservation species of concern. This FLA contains an abundance of caves and karst so the protection of these unique features in light of the heavy development of this area will be important. Some forest industry is found in this FLA, but is dominated by secondary industry so roundwood production is not as economically significant as in the Ozark Highlands. Public recreation opportunities are primarily associated with the rivers in this area. The extreme northern range of shortleaf pine is found in this FLA, so protection and

management of tracts within the native range will be an important consideration for easements.

Public participation in this proposed FLA included a public meeting held in Union, Missouri on April 19, 2004. The majority of all written comments received were from the public in this proposed FLA. Comments were also received in response to the *Monitor* article on the FLP. Written correspondence about the program was also initiated with several individuals in response to the news release and PSA's announcing the public meeting. All concerns raised during the public participation process were addressed to the satisfaction of those who presented the concerns.

### **Means for Protection:**

Conservation easements will be utilized to acquire development rights. Easements should prohibit the subdivision of forested lands covered under them. Easements should also prohibit clearing for utility easements that will require clearing of any forested acres that exceed the maximum of 5% of the total area of the easement in compatible use. Livestock grazing should also be prohibited in all conservation easements. Easements that provide for the protection and enhancement of riparian forests associated with the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and other important rivers of this area will receive high priority. Development rights will be acquired on all tracts. Timber management rights retained by the landowner will require the use of forestry BMP's, and allow harvesting only under the supervision of a professional forester as prescribed in an approved forest stewardship plan. Aesthetic values were not criteria used to identify proposed FLA,s but aesthetics will be considered when ranking tracts in this FLA. Public access will not be required, but will be encouraged especially where proposed tracts adjoin other managed lands or include portions of floatable rivers, trails, (such as the Ozark Trail), or significant water resources. This will help to provide outdoor recreational opportunities in an area where public lands are limited.

The public benefits associated with protection of forested tracts in this area include riparian protection, bottomland forest enhancement and protection, and possible public access. Outdoor recreation opportunities may be enhanced where easements provide for public access or connectivity between other publicly owned or managed tracts. Reduction in forest conversion and fragmentation will also be an important public benefit in this rapidly developing area. Protection of karst features and species of concern will be benefits derived from the acquisition of conservation easements in this area.

All conservation easements acquired through the FLP will be held and monitored by the Missouri Department of Conservation under the State Grant Option.

### **Managed Land within the FLA:**

State and Federal ownership of exceeds 120,000 acres including 18,000 acres of the Mark Twain National Forest and over 100,000 acres contained in slightly over 150 State conservation areas. These include river accesses, wetlands, nature centers, shooting ranges, towersites, natural areas and conservation areas. (Missouri Conservation Atlas, 2001) There is considerable state ownership in the Missouri River bottoms between St. Louis and Columbia. There are also numerous privately owned waterfowl areas in the Missouri River bottoms west of St. Louis. There will be minimal State or Federal acquisitions in this region in the next decade with most of

the focus being on bottomland and wetland areas.

### Conversion Pressure

Ten of the thirteen counties in this FLA are growing at a faster or significantly faster rate than the Missouri average of 9.3%. Two counties are slightly below the average state growth rate and one (St. Louis County) is significantly lower, however, this reflects a population loss in the City of St. Louis and more robust growth in the county outside of the city. County population has increased by 22,786 people from 1990-2000 and although the percentage increase is low, the additional population is significant. Lincoln and St. Charles Counties were the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> fastest growing counties, respectively, from 1990-2000.

Population trends indicate that these urban fringe counties will continue to increase at rates above the state average. Development and population increases continue at very high rates along three major interstate highways, I-70, I-44, and I-55 in this FLA and this trend will certainly continue well into the future.

**Table 6 - Population Change in the Riverborder FLA**

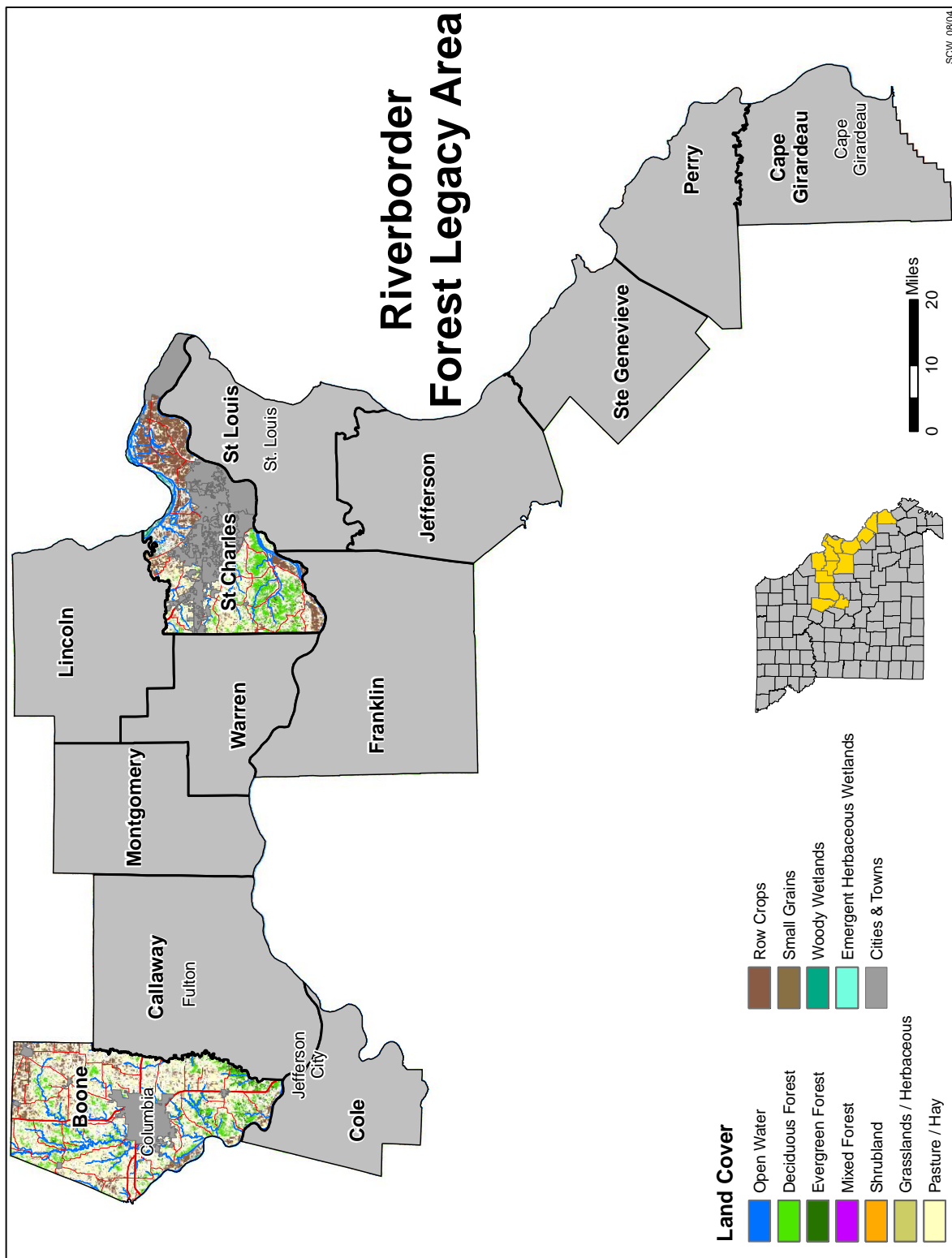
<b>County</b>	<b>% Pop Change</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>% Pop Change</b>
Boone	20.5	Montgomery	6.9
Callaway	24.3	Perry	8.9
Cape Girardeau	11.5	St. Charles	33.3
Cole	12.3	St. Genevieve	11.3
Franklin	10.6	St. Louis	2.3
Jefferson	15.6	Warren	25.6
Lincoln	34.8	<b>FLA Average</b>	<b>10.9*</b>

\*FLA Average minus St. Louis County - 12.7%

Source: Missouri Population and Components of Change, 1990-2000 By County With State Totals, 2002. Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis, University of Missouri Extension, Columbia, MO.

### Goals and Objectives for the Riverborder FLA:

- Maintain bottomland forests along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers
- Protect watersheds of the major rivers by maintaining and increasing forest cover
- Maintain forest cover to protect karst and ground water supplies
- Reduce forest fragmentation and conversion especially in the rapidly expanding St. Louis urban fringe and the three Interstate corridors.
- Protect T&E species particularly in the Meramec River watershed
- Maintain larger forested tracts where possible especially where it contributes to providing connections to other protected lands.



## **Big Lakes Forest Legacy Area** (Camden, Hickory, Miller, Morgan, and Pulaski Counties)

### **Description and Special Values:**

The proposed Big Lakes Legacy Area is primarily contained in the Osage River Hills and Gasconade River Hills Subsections of the Ozark Highlands Section in the Ecological Classification System. These subsections are composed of hilly to rugged lands associated with the Osage and Gasconade Rivers. It's proximity to prairie-dominated ecoregions to the west and the presence of extensive areas of shallow to moderately deep and droughty soils make the influence of prairie and open woodlands stronger here than in hill subsections of the Ozarks to the east. Historic vegetation ranged from prairie/savanna complexes on the west to well-forested river breaks on the east. Today the region is a focal point for recreational development associated with the lakes. Rural lands are a nearly even mix of pasture and second-growth forest. (Nigh and Schroeder, 2002)

Early land use consisted of patch agriculture and extensive open-range hog and cattle grazing in the woodlands and timber. Construction of Bagnell Dam and the Lake of the Ozarks in 1931 completely changed the geography of the subsection and introduced new land uses and economics. Forests and woodlands still occupy most of the area, but in places they are intermixed with residential, recreational and commercial developments. This is true especially along major highways and around the first-developed, eastern reaches of the Lake of the Ozarks. Economic development was slow until after World War II, when explosive growth took place. The economy of the whole area now centers on recreation, tourism and retirement communities around the lake. Counties included in this area have been among the fastest growing in the state for the past two decades. The pressure of this rapid growth is reflected in the continued fragmentation of land ownership and forest resources. (Nigh and Schroeder, 2002)

The western reaches of this area trend into open prairies and grasslands. Riparian forest protection is important in this part of the proposed FLA, especially in the Niangua and Osage River watersheds. In the eastern portion of this FLA, larger blocks of forest land are intermixed with grasslands. As in the proposed White River Hills FLA, these lands are under increasing pressure to be subdivided and converted into smaller acreage home sites or recreational lands. Large forested blocks, natural features, protection for species of concern, watershed protection and scenic qualities will all be important considerations for tracts in the Big Lakes FLA.

This proposed FLA was selected due to the presence of several of the eligibility criteria found here. Most important in this FLA is the high conversion pressure, water quality and watershed protection, and the presence of several conservation species of concern. Forests in this area are naturally interspersed with grasslands and prairies, making riparian forest protection an important consideration here. Some forest industry is found in this FLA, but it is not as economically significant as in the Ozark Highlands. Public recreation opportunities are high in this area, so recreation access is not an important consideration here unless it can serve to enhance existing opportunities on other managed lands. Aesthetics were not used as eligibility criteria, but aesthetic amenities may be important in portions of this area and will add value to conservation easements.

Public participation in this proposed FLA, included a public meeting held in Camdenton,

Missouri on April 8, 2004. In addition, written comments were received from the public in this proposed FLA. Some public comments were received in response to information about the FLA that was provided at a regional conservation forum and in an article included in the Forestkeeper newsletter, *The Monitor*. All concerns raised during the public participation process were addressed to the satisfaction of those who presented the concerns.

### **Means for Protection:**

Due to the relatively high land values in this area and an adequate amount of public land ownership, full-fee acquisition will not be pursued in this area. Conservation easements will be utilized to acquire development rights. Easements should prohibit the subdivision of forested lands covered under them. Easements should also prohibit clearing for utility easements that will require clearing of any forested acres that exceed the maximum of 5% of the total area of the easement in compatible use. Livestock grazing should also be prohibited in all conservation easements. Although access rights will not be an absolute requirement, easements that provide access rights, especially where connectivity is provided between other managed lands, will receive priority for program participation. This is particularly important where public recreation opportunities are linked to the strong tourism of this area. Due to the high level of commercial development in this area, easements should require that any existing commercial signs or billboards be removed as soon as possible as prescribed under any contracts or other obligations related to those signs. The erection of new commercial signs or billboards will be prohibited by the easements. The Niangua and Osage Rivers and their tributaries both contain several conservation species of concern, so riparian forest protection will be a priority in these watersheds. This will be accomplished by restricting timber harvests within established Stream-side Management Zones (SMZ) as described in the *Missouri Watershed Protection Practice* guidelines (1997), and recommended in the Stewardship Plan. As in the other proposed FLA's, protection of valuable karst features will be an important consideration for protection here and will be accomplished through the use of buffers with harvest limitations or restrictions (the size and/or width will be prescribed in the Stewardship plan), and mandatory B.M.P.'s. All these values will be protected through the acquisition of conservation easements.

Public benefits associated with FLP easements in this FLA include the protection of important riparian forests, especially those associated with the Niangua and Osage Rivers. Other benefits include the protection and enhancement of limited forest cover which will help to protect important and threatened water resources. Economic development associated with the growing tourism in this area is placing huge demands on the water supply. This is having impacts on both surface and ground water supplies. Riparian reforestation, forest protection, enhancement and management, and forest stewardship planning are all identified needs in this area. The FLP will help to support these local priorities. Outdoor recreation opportunities may be enhanced where easements provide for public access or connectivity between other publicly owned or managed tracts.

All conservation easements acquired through the FLP will be held and monitored by the Missouri Department of Conservation under the State Grant Option.

### **Managed Lands within the FLA:**

This area contains slightly over 50,000 acres of the Mark Twain National Forest and approximately 53,000 acres in the Ft. Leonard Wood Army Base. State ownership includes over 13,000 acres contained in 40 areas owned by the Department of Conservation. Most of these ownerships are small river and lake accesses and tower sites, with smaller (200-500 acre) conservation areas. The largest conservation area is 4,800 acres. (Missouri Conservation Atlas, 2001). Other State ownership includes several State Parks, most notably the Lake of the Ozarks State Park that adjoins the 17,000 acre Lake of the Ozarks. The 5,000 acre Ha Ha Tonka State Park borders a portion of the Niangua River, home to several T&E species.

### **Conversion Pressure**

Four of the five counties included in this FLA are growing at a significantly faster rate than the statewide average of 9.3%. Only one county (Pulaski) lost population, but this county contains US Department of Defense, Fort Leonard Wood which had a 14.5% decrease from 1990-2000. Actual county population outside of the Fort increased slightly over 2% in that same time period. Recent relocation of the U.S. Army chemical school and an increase of military personnel for basic training and the engineering and military police schools, as well as the Maneuver Support Center, Homeland Defense, and Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection operations, have increased both the base and county population a total of 9.9% since 2000. Many of the military personnel who are approaching the end of their careers are purchasing land in Pulaski and surrounding counties for investment and retirement.

Camden County is the 4<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the state and has been in the top five for the past two decades. Much of the forest land in Camden and the other counties in this FLA is being subdivided and sold for recreation and retirement properties. This trend is expected to continue and increase through the next decade.

**Table 7 – Population Change in the Big Lakes FLA**

<b>County</b>	<b>% Pop Change</b>
Camden	34.8
Hickory	21.9
Miller	13.8
Morgan	24.0
Pulaski	-0.3
<b>FLA Average</b>	<b>13.6</b>

Source: Missouri Population and Components of Change, 1990-2000 By County With State Totals, 2002. Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis, University of Missouri Extension, Columbia, MO.

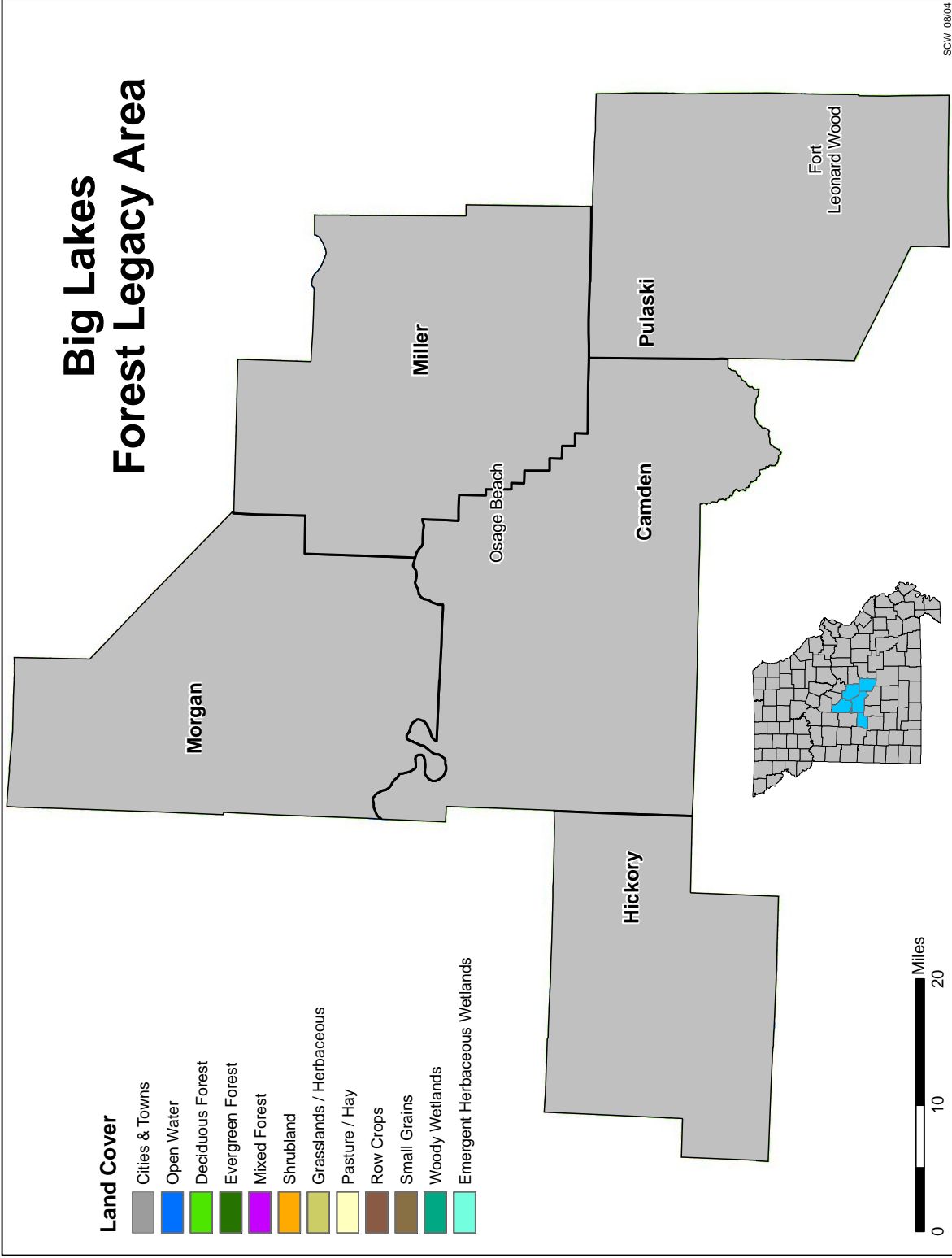
### **Goals and Objectives for the Big Lakes FLA:**

- Maintain or increase large blocks of contiguous forest cover where possible
- Protect the Osage and Niangua River watersheds and basins from degradation and forest loss associated with urban expansion and recreational development.
- Provide for protected forested green space associated with tourism development for its

scenic values and watershed protection.

- Maintain forest cover to protect karst and ground water supplies. Ground water supply is a critical issue in this region due to the geology and high public pressure for additional water supply. Several large reservoirs are also utilized for water supply here.
- Maintain contiguous forest cover linked to public lands
- Protect unique natural features and T&E species of this area





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# **Appendix A**

## **Application and Evaluation Forms**

## **Missouri Forest Legacy Landowner Application Package**

Containing:

- Forest Legacy Program Application – Information Sheet
- Landowner Inspection Consent Agreement
- Forest Legacy Application Form (4 pages)
- Application Submission Checklist
- Map of Designated Forest Legacy Areas
- Missouri Forest Legacy Parcel Evaluation Criteria Scale and Description (3 Pages)

## **State of Missouri**

### **Forest Legacy Program Application – Information Sheet**

Forest Legacy is a program established by Congress as part of the 1990 Farm Bill with the purpose of helping landowners, state and local governments and private land trusts identify and protect environmentally important forest lands that are threatened by present and future conversion to non-forest uses. Private forest lands (in designated Forest Legacy Areas selected through an assessment conducted by Missouri Forest Legacy Committee) are protected through the use of perpetual conservation easements between willing sellers and willing buyers. Only private forest land in a designated Forest Legacy Area is eligible for the program.

A conservation easement is a voluntary deed agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization (or governmental entity, such as state of Missouri), which limits development and certain activities (to an agreed-upon level) in order to protect the unique resources of that property. Terms of conservation easements are tailored to meet a landowner's needs and the attributes of the property. The owner continues to own, use, sell, lease or convey the land subject to the explicit terms of the easement, because neither the title nor right to possession of the land is given up by the agreement. The holder of the conservation easement is responsible for ensuring that the conservation restrictions of the easement are honored over time and through all subsequent changes in property ownership.

The value of the conservation easement is determined by an appraisal and the rights extinguished by the easement are purchased at not more than the appraised fair market value.

Landowners who are willing to sell their development rights are encouraged to apply during a sign-up period. At the end of a sign-up period, all applications will be evaluated and ranked. The highest ranked applications will enter the acquisition process. If negotiations produce acceptable easement terms, the easement will be acquired and recorded in the land records. If they do not produce acceptable terms, eminent domain will NOT be used. The number of parcels accepted for acquisition will depend on the funding available and the estimated value of the parcels selected.

By acquiring only the development rights most of the property values will be maintained, as well as a portion of the tax base, while assuring that the forest will not face conversion to a non-forest use.

The State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee has delineated Forest Legacy Areas in those parts of Missouri where they feel acquisition of development rights will be most effective in protecting threatened forest values. This committee has also developed qualifying criteria to prioritize parcels nominated from within the areas. Only parcels located within the boundaries of the identified four Forest Legacy Areas may be nominated for the program. Parcels may only be nominated by the owner of record of the parcel.

The Forest Legacy Program has identified important and threatened forests through an assessment of need process conducted by the Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry

Division, the State Lead Agency for the program. Protection of threatened forests will be primarily through the acquisition of conservation easements, where rights to forest parcels will be purchased from willing sellers. The rights covered by the easement are purchased at not more than the appraised fair market value and held in perpetuity by the state. Up to 75% of the purchase price may be provided through a federal grant. The state and other non-federal sources, match the remainder of the purchase price. The owners will retain all the other rights including the right to harvest timber and sell or bequeath to anyone the remaining rights.

For further information or assistance with the application form, contact:

Forest Legacy Coordinator  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Forestry Division  
PO Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180  
(573) 751-4115 ext. 3304

Included in the package are an application form to be filled out by the applicant, a map of designated Forest Legacy Areas in Missouri and a listing of criteria which will be used in prioritizing parcels for consideration by the program.

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Application Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

—

**State of Missouri  
Forest Legacy Program  
Landowner Inspection Consent Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ as the landowner or the landowner's agent (proof of authorization must accompany this document) agree to allow inspection, appraisal and survey of my property being offered for consideration under the Forest Legacy Program. I agree to allow members of the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Forest Legacy Committee or their designated staff, to inspect the property as may be required at any time. I shall be notified in advance of all inspecting visits.

I acknowledge that I understand that this easement will **not** be purchased if negotiations do not result in amicable agreement. The Forest Legacy Program depends entirely on willing seller participation and availability of funds.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Landowner or Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number including Area Code



**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Application Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

—

**APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

Landowners Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Missouri House of Representatives District: \_\_\_\_\_

Missouri Senatorial District: \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Congressional District: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPERTY INFORMATION:**

Legal Description: County \_\_\_\_\_  
Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Deed Reference (Book and Page Numbers) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Local Zoning (at property location) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
—

Current tax evaluation or recent appraisal (attach if available):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
—

Property's Total Forested Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Forested Acres Offered for Forest Legacy: \_\_\_\_\_

Acres of Cleared/Open Land in Proposed Easement Area: \_\_\_\_\_

**LANDOWNER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Describe your long term goals and objectives for this parcel:

**TRADITIONAL FOREST VALUES**

What is the “traditional” use(s) of this land? (Examples: hunting, outdoor recreation, timber production, agriculture, etc.)

**LANDOWNER COMMENTS**

In your opinion is there a threat of conversion to non-forest use of the parcel proposed for enrollment in the Forest Legacy Program? Be specific:

Do you currently have a forest management plan? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please provide a copy.

It is important that the following section be carefully and fully completed. The information you provide will directly affect the desirability of the parcel as well as its appraised value and therefore, the ranking. **Note that checking “yes” does not limit your ability to negotiate price and options in the future. It merely assists the Forest Legacy Committee when evaluating your parcel.**

Indicate which of the following interests you desire to retain: (Those marked “yes” should be the rights you want to retain. All other rights become the property of the State of Missouri upon successful completion of negotiations between the State of Missouri and yourself.)

Yes     Maybe

- |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | Timber and wood product rights                                   |
| _____ | _____ | Mushroom/herb/root/craft material collection                     |
| _____ | _____ | Mineral rights (unrestricted access to minerals)*                |
| _____ | _____ | Mineral rights (restricted with limited surface occupancy)**     |
| _____ | _____ | Oil and gas rights (unrestricted access to oil and gas)*         |
| _____ | _____ | Oil and gas rights (restricted with limited surface occupancy)** |
| _____ | _____ | Right to limit or control public access                          |

Retain control of the following recreational activities:

- |       |       |                                    |
|-------|-------|------------------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | Hunting                            |
| _____ | _____ | Fishing                            |
| _____ | _____ | Camping                            |
| _____ | _____ | Hiking or other passive recreation |
| _____ | _____ | Bicycling                          |
| _____ | _____ | Horseback riding                   |
| _____ | _____ | Motorized vehicle access           |

Non-forest compatible uses with easement area (cannot exceed 5% of total area)\*\*\*

- |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | Grazing (_____ acres)   |
| _____ | _____ | Farming (_____ acres)   |
| _____ | _____ | Road construction (other than for forest management/protection) |
| _____ | _____ | Building and other improvements (_____ acres)                   |
| _____ | _____ | Other:_____   |

\* Retention of unrestricted mineral or gas/oil rights will exclude that portion of the tract from consideration in the Forest Legacy Program.

\*\* Retention of restricted mineral or gas/oil rights which allow less than 5% surface occupancy may be consistent with the Forest Legacy Program.

\*\*\* Total area of all non-forest uses cannot exceed 5% of the total tract area.

## CONFIDENTIAL

The following information shall remain strictly confidential until such time as: 1) the application is approved and all financial transactions are concluded, or 2) all title holders give written permission to release the information.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Note: The following estimations are for preliminary use only. Any final offer will be based on, and cannot exceed, the fair market value, determined by an appraisal meeting federal appraisal standards.

A. Estimate the value of the interests to be transferred by conservation easement into the Forest Legacy Program, and the method used to determine that value (appraisal, landowner estimate, etc.)

B. What is the estimated asking price of the interests being offered if different from the above estimate?

C. Subtract price B from value A above. \$\_\_\_\_\_. If B is less than A this difference may constitute a charitable contribution for tax purposes, depending on applicable Internal Revenue Service guidelines and regulations.

### LIENS AND ENCUMBRANCES

List any and all liens and encumbrances on the property for enrollment in the Forest Legacy Program. Examples: utility easements, public right-of-way, water flow or use restrictions, septic systems or water easements, deed restrictions, mineral extraction rights, gas and oil extraction rights, tax liens, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The information provided above is true and to the best of my/our knowledge and belief. **ALL TITLE HOLDERS MUST SIGN.**

Name(s)	Signature(s)	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Application Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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### Application Submission Checklist

With your Forest Legacy Program application package, please submit four (4) copies of the following for each parcel:

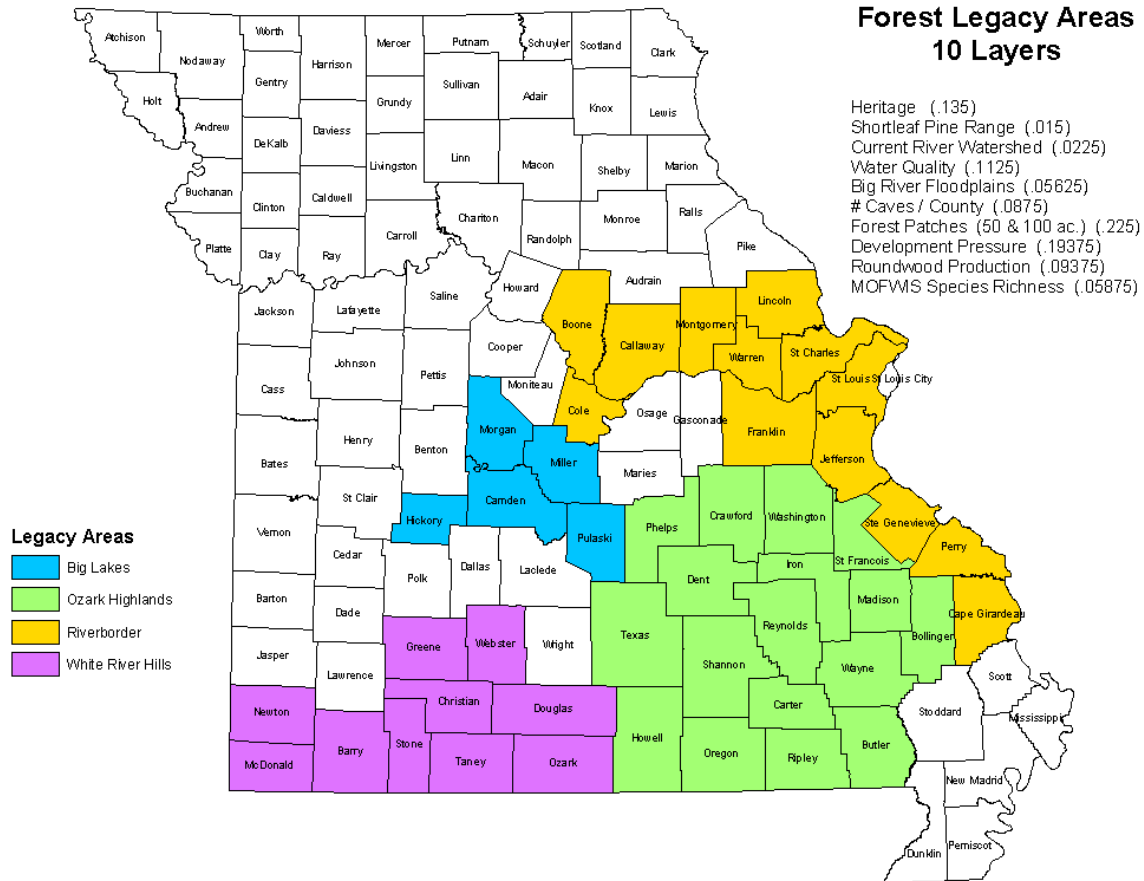
- \_\_\_\_\_ Completed Application Form
- \_\_\_\_\_ Name(s) and address(es) of other owner(s) of record for this parcel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signed consent agreement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Copy of road map indicating location of the property
- \_\_\_\_\_ Copy of the last “deed of record” for the parcel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Copy of plat or survey map of the parcel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Aerial photo (copies can be obtained through your local Natural Resources Conservation Service or Farm Services Administration office)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Legal Description of parcel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Listing of permanent improvements on the parcel, including houses, barns, lakes, ponds, dams, wells, roads, and other structures, and the total number of acres occupied by improvements
- \_\_\_\_\_ Map identifying dams, dumps, or waste disposal sites on the property
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forest management plan (if available)

Note: All materials become the property of the State of Missouri and are non-returnable.

**Disclosure of this information is voluntary; however; failure to provide all of the requested information will make it very difficult for your parcel to be properly evaluated.**

# Missouri Forest Legacy Areas

## *Proximity Map*



SCW 090704

(For Information Only)

## Missouri's Forest Legacy Parcel Evaluation Criteria

Each parcel nominated will be evaluated, in part, using the following criteria and point scale. The numerical score will not be the sole deciding factor used by the Legacy Committee in prioritizing parcels. Table 1 shows the maximum points possible for each of the evaluation criteria. Points awarded will be based on the quality of the characteristics of the individual parcel and weighted based on the goals and objectives identified for each specific Forest Legacy Area.

Table 1. Parcel Criteria Evaluation Scale

A. Forest Values	70 points
B. Riparian and Hydrologic	50 points
C. Fish and Wildlife Habitat	50 points
D. Threatened and Endangered Species	50 points
E. Karst Resources	50 points
F. Cultural and Historic Resources	10 points
G. Scenic Resources	10 points
H. Existence of Potential Public Recreation	10 points
I. Provides Traditional Uses	50 points
J. Level of Threat	100 points
K. Acquirability/Manageability	<u>50 points</u>
<b>Total Maximum Points</b>	<b>500 points</b>

### Description of Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to rank each proposed tract. Higher points will be assessed for tracts either meeting most of the stated criteria and/or containing higher amounts of important individual characteristics. (#) Indicates the maximum points allowed for each criteria.

**A. Forest Values:** (70 points). Because the protection and management of forest land is one of the main objectives of this program, the amount, character and condition of the forested area are important criteria. Several items will be considered in determining this:

- Parcel is a large block of contiguous forest
- Total size of the forested tract
- Percent forest cover and contiguous forest cover
- Condition of forest (age, size, health)
- Forest type including any forest natural features
- Any unique forest condition or habitat that is critical for a species of concern or for other resource protection
- Proximity and/or connectivity to other public forests or protected private forest areas
- Parcel provides a mix of native forest-based ecological communities
- Parcel includes forest-based ecological communities which are dwindling in Missouri
- Parcel contains natural areas

**B. Riparian and Hydrologic:** (50 points). One of the most important “products” of forest areas is water. Proper management of forest lands can increase the quality and quantity of water for the residents of Missouri. Consideration will be given to:

- Parcel contains a stream or river, with special consideration for priority watersheds, protected streams and/or imperiled waters
- Parcel has extensive river or wetland shoreline (over 660 feet)
- Parcel includes 100 year floodplain
- Parcel contains a minimum 50 foot strip of trees or shrubs along shorelines to serve as a natural buffer and sediment filter.
- Parcel is situated within the surface watershed, or ground water aquifer, of a public drinking water supply.
- Parcel is adjacent to identified permanent watershed protection areas (e.g. Wetland Reserve)
- Parcel includes a natural wetland

**C. Fish and Wildlife Habitat:** (50 points). Preventing the division of forest tracts into smaller units is crucial to maintaining viable populations of many wildlife species.

- Parcel contains outstanding habitat and other ecologically recognized criteria for one or more species that include:
  - Forest interior birds
  - Significant populations of resident species
  - Areas for resting and feeding for migratory species
  - Forest inhabiting mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates
  - Forested protection of waters containing significant or important fish populations and/or aquatic species of concern
- Parcel exhibits connective habitats, corridors, habitat linkages, and areas that reduce biological invasion.

**D. Known Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species:** (50 points). As urbanization and subdivision of forest lands continue, the need to give special attention to rare, threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife, and plants increases. Parcels nominated for the Forest Legacy Program should be inventoried for such natural habitats that may contain species appearing on federal or state lists as rare, endangered, threatened, or species of concern.

- Parcel provides habitat supporting the occurrence of rare, threatened, or endangered species.
- Parcel contains or is within close proximity to a site listed on the Missouri Heritage Database.
- Parcel provides suitable habitat for reoccupation by rare, threatened, or endangered species (either naturally or through relocation).
- Parcel contains known populations or suitable habitat for a species of concern

**E. Known Karst Features:** (50 points). Missouri is a karst state with many unique and valuable karst features. Many of these features are closely tied to ground water protection and also have some historic cultural value. Forests are key to protection these features.

- Parcel has caves, sinkholes, springs, or other known karst features
- Parcel is in a known cave or spring recharge area.



- Parcel has other unique or important karst or geologic features that may be protected or improved by maintaining forest cover

**F. Known Cultural and Historic Resources:** (10 points). Material evidence of previous human occupation comprises a unique and irreplaceable resource, as do historic features and the combination of constructed and natural landscapes.

- Parcel contains forest related cultural resources (e.g. historic forest, historic mill site, CCC camp or construction site, or other historic forest industry site).
- Other historic or archeological resources are found on the parcel (e.g. Native American sites or artifacts, historic structures, historic sites or landmarks)

**G. Scenic Resources:** (10 points). The scenic aspects of a natural resource area may often be subjective, but there are several means of measuring special qualities that make a given parcel stand out.

- Parcel is adjacent to a scenic road, byway, river, or trail as listed by the state or federal government.
- Parcel includes locally important panoramic views or exceptional short views.
- Conversion of forest will break continuity of a landscape view from a regularly and easily accessed public location

**H. Existing or Potential Public Recreation:** (10 points). Public recreation opportunities are defined as those having non-commercial and non-landowner users. Existing or potential recreational use (especially public access) of a proposed parcel may be an important component.

- Water-based public recreation (e.g. swimming, fishing, rafting, canoeing)
- Trail-based recreation or day use (e.g. hiking, picnicking, horseback or bicycle riding)
- Natural resource-based recreation (e.g. camping, hunting, wildlife viewing)

**I. Provides Opportunities for Traditional Uses:** (50 points). Maintaining traditional forest uses is important. It permits owners to remain on the land without requiring high-cost services. Traditional forest uses provide raw materials for local economies and amenities for an improved quality of life.

- Parcel will remain available for high quality timber and other forest products management under a Stewardship Plan.
- Parcel will continue to serve watershed filtration and soil stabilization functions
- Parcel will continue to provide non-timber goods (e.g. herbs, mushrooms, pollen, craft materials).
- Parcel will provide “forested greenspace” in predominantly developed or agricultural landscapes or provide landscape linkages.
- Parcel will provide environmental education or research opportunities

**J. Type and Level of Conversion Threats:** (100 points). There are various kinds and degrees of threat to valuable forest areas, such as encroaching housing development, improved roads, sewer and power line extension into undeveloped areas and the dividing of land ownership into small parcels with greater numbers of owners.

- Parcel may be in danger of conversion to non-forest use within 5 years
- Parcel may remain wooded, but will become further subdivided within 5 years

- Parcel is currently for sale on the open market
- Parcel may remain wooded but is in danger of being harvested in a non-sustainable fashion
- Parcel contains a remnant of a diminishing forest type in Missouri
- Infrastructure extensions are imminent in the area.
- Parcel is forested and zoned as commercial, industrial or residential and in close proximity to similar developments
- Parcel is currently scheduled for conversion of existing forest to a non-forest use within two years

**K. Acquirability or Manageability:** (50 points). Even if a forested parcel is threatened with conversion to non-forest use, protecting it under the Forest Legacy Program can best be accomplished if certain conditions exist.

- Property is specifically identified in terms of priority, timing, and cost in local land use plans, MDC acquisition plans, or land trust priority listings.
- Easement may be available at below fair market value
- Intensity and expense of management activities to protect the property's values is economically feasible
- Property can accommodate proposed priority uses or management activities without endangering or degrading its natural value.
- Property can be protected from future degradation by activities occurring on neighboring properties (some type of land use planning is locally available).
- Some of background work is completed and negotiation with the landowner indicates their objectives are consistent with the program, agreement on terms and conditions is likely, and there is a likelihood of closing quickly
- Outside funding or donations will likely defer a significant portion of the acquisition cost for the easement

In addition to these criteria, a project will not be considered unless it contains a minimum of 100 acres. Multiple tracts proposed in the same project may each be less than 100 acres if the aggregate size of all tracts totals 100 acres or greater. Special consideration may be given by the SFSCC for tracts or projects of less than 100 acres *only* if they are determined to contain *significant* values in three or more of the evaluation criteria listed above. Up to 5 percent of the total area of a proposed tract may be in a compatible non-forest use and be included in an easement. Tracts with greater than 5 percent of the land in compatible uses will only be considered if the area(s) of compatible use is primarily contained in small interior inclusions that would be difficult to describe and/or exclude from the FLP tract description. The proposed tracts should also contain other significant features in the forested and compatible use areas as described above.

# Missouri Forest Legacy Parcel Evaluation Package

## Containing:

- **Cover Sheet:** The first part of the cover sheet to be completed with information supplied on the application form. The landscape description is meant to include the physical characteristics of the surrounding area including topography, soils, and surface and ground water hydrology; brief inventories of major vegetative groups, fish and wildlife resources, scenic resources and any other forest resources; as well as surrounding land uses. The parcel description is meant to include an in-depth description of the above mentioned items, but as they pertain to the parcel. Use additional sheets as needed. This sheet will be completed by investigating personnel directed to do so by the state lead agency.
- **Parcel Evaluation Score Sheet:** This sheet will be completed by personnel directed to do so by the lead agency, in consultation with investigating personnel and the Forest Legacy Committee.
- **Scoring:** The final numerical score will not be used as the sole factor in determining which parcel/interest should be acquired, but merely as a guide to the relative values of the resource under evaluation. Subject to funding, priority will be given to those tracts with regionally significant forest resources with the greatest need for protection.

# COVER SHEET

## MISSOURI FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM PARCEL EVALUATION PACKAGE

\_\_\_\_\_ Forest Legacy Area

File Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowners Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Description: \_\_\_\_\_

On Site Investigators: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** As part of the evaluation process, the appropriate state agency must provide written notification to the County Commissioners of the county in which the tract is located, of the landowner's application for inclusion in the Forest Legacy Program. (Attach copy of written notification to this evaluation package.)

Landscape Description:

Parcel Description:

## Missouri Forest Legacy Program Parcel Evaluation Scoresheet

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Forest Legacy Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Evaluated: \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluator Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria Category (Max points possible)	Maximum FLA Goal Weighting (circle one – see note below)			Points Awarded	Comments
	Low	Med	High		
Forest Values (70)	25	50	70		
Riparian & Hydrologic (50)	15	30	50		
Fish & Wildlife Habitat (50)	15	30	50		
Threatened & Endangered Spp. (50)	15	30	50		
Karst Features (50)	15	30	50		
Cultural & Historic Resources (10)	0	5	10		
Scenic Resources (10)	0	5	10		
Public Recreation (10)	0	5	10		
Traditional Forest Uses (50)	30	40	50		
Level of Conversion Threat (100)	50	75	100		
Acquirability / Manageability (40)	15	30	50		
Meets Min. tract size (100 ac) and < 5% compatible use	NO Will not be ranked		YES Will be ranked		
Total (500)					

**Note:** FLA Goal Value Weighting level, low, medium, or high, will be determined by the Forest Legacy Committee for each evaluation criteria in each FLA based on stated goals and objectives set forth in the FLA descriptions. The rating for each criteria occurs before any parcels are evaluated within each FLA. If the minimum tract/project size (100acres), or the maximum percent of the area in compatible uses (5%) are not met, the tract will not be ranked or considered except as authorized by the SFSCC..

## **Appendix B**

### **Authorizing Documents**



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MISSOURI  
JEFFERSON CITY  
65101

<http://go.missouri.gov>

BOB HOLDEN  
GOVERNOR

June 4, 2004

STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 216  
(573) 751-3222

Mr. Dale N. Bosworth, Chief  
USDA Forest Service  
P.O. Box 96090  
Washington, DC 20090-6090

Dear Mr. Bosworth:

This correspondence is to document that I have designated the Missouri Department of Conservation as the state's lead agency for the USDA's Forest Legacy Program as authorized under Section 1217 of Title XII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990. Please forward program information and other pertinent materials to Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180.

The Department of Conservation is the logical agency to lead Missouri's Forest Legacy Program. The Department coordinates the state's forestry programs through established working relationships with federal and state agencies, non-governmental groups, and private landowners. In addition, the Department's lead role in the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee currently provides leadership and public input for the Forest Legacy program.

I am pleased that Missouri is being considered as a project area for this timely forest conservation program. Thank you for your continued support of state and private forestry programs.

Sincerely,

Bob Holden  
Governor

BH:is

c: John Hoskins, Department of Conservation



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry

11 Campus Boulevard  
Suite 200  
Newtown Square, PA 19073

File Code: 3200  
Route To: (5400)

Date: June 2, 2005

Subject: Forest Legacy Program Assessment of Need - State of Missouri

To: Chief

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JUN 13 2005

FORESTRY

Enclosed is the Missouri Forest Legacy Assessment of Need (AON). Having reviewed the AON, I have determined the document meets the requirements as set forth in Section 7 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (16 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.) as amended by Section 1217 of Title XII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-624:104 Stat. 3359) and the Federal Agriculture and Reform Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-127: 110 stat. 888), and the Forest Legacy Program Implementation Guidelines dated June 30, 2003.

Robert Krepps, State Forester and the Missouri Department of Conservation, which is the State Lead Agency designated by the Governor, prepared the Assessment of Need. The public was involved in the AON process. The Missouri Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee has endorsed the AON.

I recommend you forward the Missouri Forest Legacy Assessment of Need to the Secretary for Approval.

KATHRYN P. MALONEY  
Area Director

Enclosure

cc: Robert Krepps, State Forester, MO, Mike Hoffmann, Rick Cooksey, Robin Morgan, Deirdre Raimo



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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

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SEP 19 2005

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

AUG 5 2005

*Sared → Doyle*  
*cc Shelby*

RECEIVED

AUG 15 2005

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

The Honorable Matt Blunt  
Governor  
State of Missouri  
Missouri Capitol Building  
Room 216  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Governor Blunt:

I am pleased to inform you that your request for participation in the Forest Legacy Program has been approved pursuant to our authority under Section 7 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2103c), as amended.

The State of Missouri proposed four Forest Legacy Areas (FLAs) to achieve the program's goals. These four FLAs meet eligibility criteria and have public support. The FLAs are described and mapped in the Missouri Assessment of Need (AON). The eligibility criteria and four FLAs as defined in the AON are hereby instituted and approved.

Thank you for your efforts to join the Forest Legacy Program. Please feel free to have your staff contact Mark Rey, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, telephone: (202) 720-7173; e-mail: [Mark.Rey@usda.gov](mailto:Mark.Rey@usda.gov) for additional information.

Sincerely,

Mike Johanns  
Secretary

Forest Legacy Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 25, 2003  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Attendees:

Deirdre Raimo (USFS), Mike Hoffmann (MDC), Carl Hauser (MDC), Garrett Hawkins (MO Farm Bureau), Fred Fox (TNC), Abigail Lambert (Oz. Regional Land Trust), Ted Heisel (Mo. Coalition for the Environment), Brian Brookshire (MDC), Tom Treiman (MDC), David Thorne (MDC), Steve Westin (MDC)

Following introductions, Deirdre gave a brief overview of the Forest Legacy Program and the requirements of the Assessment of Need (AON). She indicated that the 1996 guidelines should be followed but they are currently under revision with expected completion in June, 2003. Most of the revisions will not directly impact the development of the state AON. The AON should document the need for the FLP in the state. The National program has established broad eligibility criteria that should be further refined in the state... What is important to us? It should define 1) what is an important forest in Missouri, 2) traditional use, (timber, public access, ecological values, etc), and 3) the threats for conversion to non-forest uses. It should fit in with other land protection programs and should be nationally significant.

Public input is typically in two phases, the first identifies the issues and the second addresses concerns in the FLA's. Consider Systematic development of informed consent model. It was suggested that we provide open comment periods and public meetings to gather public comments and concerns as opposed to a more closed process based on invitations, mailings or calls.

It is a cost share program that provides up to 75% federal match. State match can come from FL committee or agency time allocated to the program, state purchase of forest land, the value of existing forest land?, other private, NGO or landowner contributions. Federal policy requires that the easements be held by a government entity, but a land trust can facilitate a donation.

It will take the FS about one month to review the final draft AON. If completed by June 15, the state would be eligible for a \$500,000 project. Committee consensus was that this timeframe would not be possible.

The AON should describe the Forest Legacy Areas (FLA) including the values and how we will protect them. It should also indicate fee simple vs. easements. Some discussion ensued about roadblocks to fee simple acquisition with the likely result that conservation easements will be the primary tool in Missouri.

- I. There was some discussion of tax issues related to assessment and property taxes. Abigail referenced open space enabling legislation that permits or encourages assessments based on agricultural or forest use rather than highest or best use. *Abigail will send a copy of the legislation to the committee.*

There was some discussion of the ability to "buy out" of the program. Deirdre indicated that it is a perpetual program and that there is a language in the easement that should deal with conversion

should that occur.

Public access should be addressed in the AON. Should be required if it is considered an important issue in the AON. Consensus was that it is not an issue in Missouri but agreements should allow the landowner options for controlled access including fee or leased access.

#### Identification of Forest Values:

- The Ozarks is the largest contiguous block of forests in the mid-west with 260-270 endemic species in the Ozark Highlands, many with some element of conservation concern. It is important to maintain contiguous forest cover so large forested tracts should be a criteria
- Endemic species (plant and animal) should be an important criteria (Use species diversity and/or richness to evaluate)
- T&E species should be an important criteria
- The Current River watershed/ecosystem is important for 25+ aquatic species of conservation concern.
- Bottomland forests and big river ecosystems should be important criteria
- Water quality is an important issue in Missouri. Riparian or watershed protection should be considered in sensitive areas.
- It is important to maintain the integrity of the Ozark forests (related to item 1)
- Karst (geologic) features should be an important criteria in Missouri
- Forest-based recreation is NOT an important issue in Missouri due to the high levels of opportunities on public lands.
- Visual or aesthetic considerations are NOT a high concern

#### Traditional Forest Uses

- There is a strong tradition for Missouri landowners to make decisions on how land is used.
- Timber harvesting is an important tradition in Missouri particularly in areas where it is tied closely to the local economy. Less important in more urbanized areas where traditional markets are limited
- Hunting and other outdoor recreation is important in Missouri
- Water quality protection is a tradition in some areas

#### Threats to Conversion from Forest Uses

- Fragmentation and parcelization
- Forest Health Issues
- Lack of or poor management planning and inappropriate harvesting practices – Poor water quality is one outcome of this. Improved water quality is an ecological and social benefit with proper management
- Lack of economic opportunities for landowners

It was suggested that FLA boundaries be tied to counties rather than watersheds, LTA's or other ecologically based subdivisions. There was some concern expressed about landowner dissatisfaction if excluded from a FLA. Others would prefer not to be included in a FLA. The AON should address these concerns.

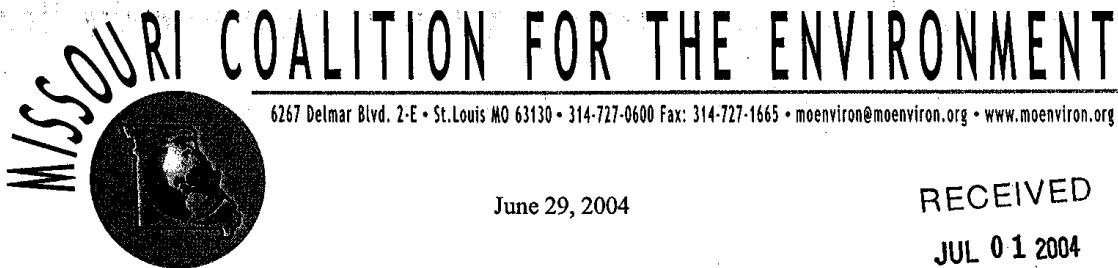
Future meetings of the Forest Legacy Committee will be combined with State Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SSCC) meetings where possible. Much of the communication will be handled through email.

Draft wording will be completed for the following sections by late April and provided to the committee for review:

- Background
- History of forests in Missouri
- Description of current forest conditions
- Summary of public input from existing surveys and studies
- Discussion of Forest Values elements/criteria
- Discussion of Traditional Uses, including economic analysis of forest industry
- Discussion of Threats for Conversion
- Identification of data sources/layers to be used in identifying the FLA's
- Preliminary maps indicating potential FLA's based on criteria listed above

This draft information will be presented to the SSCC for approval prior to development of specific recommendations for implementation of the program within the identified FLA's. Target date for completion of the AON is September 30, 2003.

Mike Hoffmann will present this information to the SSCC at the April 4 meeting.



6267 Delmar Blvd. 2-E • St. Louis MO 63130 • 314-727-0600 Fax: 314-727-1665 • moenviron@moenviron.org • www.moenviron.org

June 29, 2004

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JUL 01 2004

Director's Office

Director John Hoskins  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
2901 West Truman Boulevard  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

**Re: Forest Legacy Program**

Dear Director Hoskins:

I am writing on behalf of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment to express our strong support for implementation of the Forest Legacy program in Missouri. We urge the Department of Conservation to move swiftly to prepare the necessary paperwork to get this important program off the ground. Each additional year that Missouri sits on the sidelines is another missed opportunity for forest conservation in our state. The vast majority of the 50 states are ahead of Missouri in implementing Forest Legacy, and many have already received millions of dollars for forest conservation.

As you know, Missouri's forests face a number of threats. Many important tracts of forest around the state are prone to conversion to other, non-forest uses, especially subdivision and development. The Forest Legacy program gives the owners of these tracts the option of receiving an immediate payment to keep their lands under permanent protection for a wide-range of forest related uses, including timber harvest. While the lands remain in private ownership, there are many public benefits that accrue, such as the protection of water quality, wildlife habitat and scenic values.

Again, we urge the Department of Conservation to move forward with Forest Legacy and look forward to supporting future efforts to obtain funding for projects. Thank you for the Department's past efforts in this regard.

Very truly yours,

Edward J. Heisel  
Executive Director

cc: Missouri Conservation Commission

Effective Citizen Action Since 1969



## MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

### Headquarters

2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180  
Telephone: 573/751-4115 ▲ Missouri Relay Center: 1-800-735-2966 (TDD)

JOHN D. HOSKINS, Director

July 7, 2004

Edward J. Heisel  
Executive Director  
Missouri Coalition for the Environment  
6267 Delmar Blvd, 2-E  
St. Louis, MO 63130

Dear Mr. Heisel:

Thank you for your letter of support for the Forest Legacy Program. I agree that Missouri's forests face a number of threats and the Forest Legacy Program might provide Missouri landowners new tools to ensure long-term protections. I am also encouraged by the broad based support of this program and the partnerships that are key to its success.

We are working to complete the Assessment of Need as quickly as possible. As a member of the Forest Legacy Committee, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment can provide valuable assistance to move this process forward.

I have asked Mike Hoffmann, Forestry Management Chief, to provide the Coalition with updates on the progress of the Assessment of Need and to answer any other specific questions you may have. Once again, thank you for your participation and support for this program.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. HOSKINS  
DIRECTOR

c: Commissioner Stephen C. Bradford  
Commissioner Cynthia Metcalfe  
Commissioner Anita B. Gorman  
Commissioner Lowell Mohler  
Deputy Director John W. Smith  
Forestry Division Administrator Robert Krepps  
✓ Forest Management Chief Mike Hoffmann

### COMMISSION

STEPHEN C. BRADFORD  
Cape Girardeau

ANITA B. GORMAN  
Kansas City

CYNTHIA METCALFE  
St. Louis

LOWELL MOHLER  
Jefferson City



Ozark Regional Land Trust  
427 S. Main St.  
Carthage, MO 64836  
(417) 358-0852 (office), (417) 358-5176 (evenings)  
(417) 358-4438 (fax)  
email: orlt@ipa.net  
webpage: www.ortt.org

o St. Louis Regional Field Office o 4487 McPherson Avenue o St. Louis, MO 63108 o (314) 371-4141 o

June 23, 2004

Director John Hoskins  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
2901 West Truman Boulevard  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Re: Forest Legacy


Dear Director Hoskins:

I am writing on behalf of Ozark Regional Land Trust to express our support for implementation of the Forest Legacy program in Missouri. We commend the Department of Conservation for taking a lead role in preparing the necessary paperwork to get this important program off the ground.

As you know, Missouri's forests face a number of threats. Many important tracts of forest around the state are prone to conversion to other, non-forest uses, especially subdivision and development. The Forest Legacy program gives the owners of these tracts the option of receiving an immediate payment to keep their lands under permanent protection for a wide-range of forest related uses, including timber harvest. While the land remains in private ownership, there are many public benefits that accrue, such as the protection of water quality, wildlife habitat and scenic values.

This program provides another voluntary tool and incentive that we can offer to landowners who want to protect the health of their forest resource.

Again, we commend the Department of Conservation for its leadership on this important issue and look forward to offering this option to landowners in designated Forest Legacy Areas.

Very truly yours,  
  
Gregg Galbraith  
Ozark Regional Land Trust

cc: Missouri Conservation Commission

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JUL 06 2004

Director's Office

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JUL 07 2004

FORESTRY

## **Appendix C**

### **Public Participation Process and Comments**



### ***Forest Legacy Program for Conservation Forums***

Missouri's forests are valuable for many ecological, environmental and social reasons. The Forestry Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation is dedicated to fully understanding all forest values and uses and how they interrelate. They all have the potential of providing positive and negative impacts on long-term forest health and sustainability, and also on other uses and values of the forest. We must strive to identify and understand these many and complex relationships if we are to make wise decisions about the management of our forests. Forestry Division supports and participates in many programs and activities to help accomplish important goal. Since 84% of Missouri's forests are privately owned, it is important that forest land owners have options for managing and protecting the forest land they own. The Department of Conservation is currently investigating the potential benefits of participation in the Forest Legacy Program to provide another option for forest landowners.

The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is to ascertain and protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. It was authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill and is administered by the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry. It seeks to protect traditional forest uses, recreation and scenic resources, cultural values and economic potential by utilizing conservation easements as the program's primary tool. Conservation easements are legal agreements between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limit the uses of the land to protect its conservation values. They are legal agreements that are recorded as permanent deed restrictions, thus are binding on future landowners. It is important to note that landowner participation is completely voluntary and the landowner will be compensated no more than fair market value for their interests, based on an appraisal conforming to Federal Appraisal Standards. Landowners are allowed and even encouraged to continue to manage these lands for many values and benefits including forest products, wildlife habitat, water quality, recreation and scenic beauty. The easements are designed to prevent the conversion of forest land to non-forest uses such as commercial or residential development.

The first step for participation in the Forest Legacy Program is the completion of an Assessment of Need (AON). The AON will be prepared by the Department with input from several interested groups, including environmental and agricultural organizations, forest products industry, land trusts, state and federal agencies, forest landowners and the general public. The AON will summarize historic forest information and document current forest information. In addition, it will attempt to identify the potential threats for conversion to non-forest uses. The combination of identified critical forest features or conditions and the potential threats for conversion will help to target the use of Forest Legacy Program funds. One important element of the AON is the requirement for public input related to Missouri's participation in the Forest Legacy Program, important forest uses and values, and potential threats for forest conversion. If you are willing to provide input into this process, you may call, write or email us for a short list of questions related to the Forest Legacy Program and the Assessment of Need. For a list of the questions or to provide other comments or request information about the program, write: Forest Legacy Program, Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180; email: [hoffmm@mdc.state.mo.us](mailto:hoffmm@mdc.state.mo.us), or call 573-751-4115, ext. 3307.

## **Forest Legacy Program article in *The Monitor***

### **Forest Legacy Program in Missouri**

The Missouri Department of Conservation has begun the process to prepare a state-wide Assessment of Need (AON) for participation in the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to ascertain and protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. It was authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill and is administered by the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry. It seeks to protect land, traditional forest uses, riparian areas, recreational resources, wildlife, scenic resources and cultural values utilizing conservation easements as the program's primary tool. Conservation easements are legal agreements between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limit the uses of the land to protect its conservation values, while the landowner continues to own and manage it. They are legal agreements that are recorded as permanent deed restrictions, thus are binding on future landowners. Landowner participation is completely voluntary and the landowner will be compensated no more than fair market value for their interests, based on an appraisal conforming to Federal Appraisal Standards. Other tools available under the FLP include fee-title purchase, voluntary deed restriction, covenants and agreements.

Before Missouri can propose tracts to be considered for federal funding under the FLP, a State-wide AON must be completed by the lead agency (Missouri Department of Conservation). The AON includes a summary of forest extent and condition, including historical information, ownership patterns, special or unique features, forest types, diversity, uses, associated T&E species, aesthetics, economics, etc. In addition, state demographics are identified as they relate to potential for forest fragmentation and conversion. One major component of the AON is a requirement to provide for public input into the State's participation in the FLP, to help identify and prioritize criteria for the establishment of Forest Legacy Areas (FLA), and to identify criteria and potential threats to forest land within the FLA's. To assist in this effort, you are encouraged to respond to the following questions and mail your responses to: Mike Hoffmann, Forest Management Chief, Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, or email to: [hoffmm@mdc.state.mo.us](mailto:hoffmm@mdc.state.mo.us). For additional information about the Forest Legacy Program or the Assessment of Need, email or call Mike Hoffmann at 573-751-4115, ext. 3307.

1. Do you support the preparation of a Forest Legacy Program Assessment of Need in Missouri? If not, what are your concerns about the program?
2. What do you feel are the most important considerations to identify Forest Legacy Areas in Missouri?  
(forest tract size, proximity to developing areas, special or unique features, scenic features, presence of T&E species, watershed protection, clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, etc)
3. What do you consider to be the greatest threat to the loss or conversion of forest land in Missouri? (ie. Commercial development, residential development, urban sprawl, forest fragmentation, conversion to agricultural uses, forest health problems (insects and diseases),

natural disasters, etc.)

4. Could you support the use of conservation easements to protect forest land from conversion to non-forest uses?
5. If Missouri participates in the Forest Legacy Program, would you support the use of state funds as a partial match for federal funds used to acquire conservation easements?
6. Are there specific regions or areas of the state that should be included in a Forest Legacy Area? Why?
7. If you are a forest landowner, would you consider participating in the Forest Legacy Program if your property were eligible?
8. Do you believe that the Department of Conservation is the appropriate agency to administer the Forest Legacy Program in Missouri?
9. Do you believe that active forest management can provide for long-term forest health, productivity and sustainability?

### **Summary of Responses from *The Monitor***

1. Do you support the preparation of a Forest Legacy Program Assessment of Need in Missouri? If not, what are your concerns about the program? **Yes - 2; No – 0**
2. What do you feel are the most important considerations to identify Forest Legacy Areas in Missouri? (forest tract size, proximity to developing areas, special or unique features, scenic features, presence of T&E species, watershed protection, clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, etc). **All of the above; Forest tract size, presence of T&E species, watershed protection, wildlife habitat;**
3. What do you consider to be the greatest threat to the loss or conversion of forest land in Missouri? (ie. Commercial development, residential development, urban sprawl, forest fragmentation, conversion to agricultural uses, forest health problems (insects and diseases), natural disasters, etc.) **All of the above; Forest fragmentation**
4. Could you support the use of conservation easements to protect forest land from conversion to non-forest uses? **Yes – 2; No – 0**
5. If Missouri participates in the Forest Legacy Program, would you support the use of state funds as a partial match for federal funds used to acquire conservation easements? **Yes – 2; No – 0**
6. Are there specific regions or areas of the state that should be included in a Forest Legacy Area? Why? **Urban areas because development is imperiling the outskirts; Ozark Region because it's the largest and still mostly intact. It would have more impact on the state – social, economic, environmental – than other regions.**
7. If you are a forest landowner, would you consider participating in the Forest Legacy Program if your property were eligible? **Yes – 2; No – 0**
8. Do you believe that the Department of Conservation is the appropriate agency to administer the Forest Legacy Program in Missouri? **Yes – 2; No -0**

9. Do you believe that active forest management can provide for long-term forest health, productivity and sustainability? **Yes – 2; No – 0**

### **Additional Responses on the selected Forest Legacy Criteria**

#### **First Response (letter):**

1. Yes and No. What is large? Most of the Ozark public forest are in Mark Twain Forest. More is in the hands of private owners as you well know. I have a little over 300 ac. Some have 600, 1500, etc. The average land owner is what, 200ac? All which need help; but to buy land in not the best way to so the same thing. People in the Ozarks have a different mind set than people from urban settings. A lease option would be a much better way in my opinion. I would like to talk to the people that are to determine the outcome. I have idea's about a lot of Conservation Department cost share that could be used along with this program.
2. Glades have such a wide range of Flora and Animal types. I believe this should be one of the Top 10 of your choices. Shortleaf pine is a very good idea. White oak, red oak, and walnut with pine would be my choices. With the decline of white oak in the Ozarks this would help the oak.
3. T&E species – Glades are a place to go 1<sup>st</sup> in Ozarks.
4. Mark Twain Lake is in dire help for a lot of thing's. I use to fish Mark Twain since it first opened. Water quality is a 1<sup>st</sup>. People is 2<sup>nd</sup>. Won't fist Twain anymore because of people. Table Rock Lake is another lake I would look at (St. James arm is the pits). If it were up to me, Ha Ha, I would get the state to make it mandatory that aeration systems would be the only waste system, by Law!!!! Retroactive back 20 years. No I'm not a plumber.
5. The program I thought was one of the best was S.I.P., but it has not been funded for years. If it was up to me again, Ha Ha. WHIP-FIP etc EQIP should All be under 1 program so that duplication isn't a problem and cost to Admin., Would be cut way back and have more money to spend. I would like to talk to some of the people in charge.
6. Harvesting practices; answer to problem. Have All loggers to be licensed by the State and all B.M.P. should be strickly enforced. More money should be spent on road construction in forest at time of harvest. Construction of roads should be supervised by Mo. Dept. Conserv.
7. Closer supervision of All Mo. Conservation programs & Fed. Programs. I have found this to be lacking in every program I've been in. Severe lack of contractors for the different programs.

If you or anyone else would like to talk further about this, I would love to try to get something done about all these things.

#### **Second response (letter):**

Dear Mr. Hoffmann: I have considered giving easements on my land for 5 years. We have property on the Black River (West Fork) and on Dardine Creek in St. Charles Co. that are in particular need of protection. Also we have property adjacent to a Mo. Cons. Property – Flat Rock Forest – that is in the watershed of Big Creek which drains into the Jacks Fork.

In the past when I contacted the Mo. Cons. Dept. – this was years ago re: St. Charles Co. there was no interest because it was deemed the boundaries were not definite (they are). Also other groups i.e. Nature Conservancy, Ozark Regional Land Trust and others- I would have to pay for a lawyer – and appraiser in order to give the easement. In the case of the Conservancy, there would be a yearly fee for preserving the easement! I wasn't terribly interested in paying in order to give something away. Good luck with what you're doing – deeding an easement – doing good – and getting paid for it is the best of all possible worlds!

### **Third Response (email):**

Dear Mr. Hoffmann, I believe we have met before, so "hi." I read your article in the Monitor, and have some input and some questions. I and my family own Forest Health Monitoring Plot # 3809073, visited by Gus Raeker and Beverly Kruger in 1999. They wrote, "The old growth forest conditions found are rare to say the least and could be considered an ecological gold mine." I would like to preserve this area, which has never been logged.

Some questions:

--If I were to grant a conservation easement, to whom would I grant it?

--How would I be compensated, and by whom? Could I simply apply the amount of the easement grant against my taxes over several years?

--What would prevent a future owner, say my unborn grandchild, from logging the property in ignorance of the conservation easement? And then, what would be the point of maintaining that easement?

--Could I put one tract into this program and not another, or would I need to enter all my property into the program?

--Could the Conservation easement ever be bought back so the property could be sold to developers, say in the distant future when the tract is surrounded by skyscrapers and asphalt?

A comment:

I love that piece of woods and want to see it preserved. But I acknowledge that Nothing's Forever, and as the area gets more developed, my remaining piece of forest becomes the local kids' ATV track, invaded by hunters and people dumping trash. St. Louis County isn't helping matters in continually raising taxes and changing assessments from rural/NU to residential. They claim if you're not plowing it, it can't be agricultural, therefore must be residential, even without roads, utilities, or residents. I'm afraid that someday I or my descendants won't afford ourselves the luxury of stewarding wild lands for the sake of the planet, but will be crowded out by the government and the developers. This is one of the very last pieces of true forest in St. Louis County. Maybe I should read the writing on the wall, make a quick bundle and move somewhere further out, away from the noise of the city. But I'll keep it for now.

Please send me the paperwork for entering the program at my address below: (Left out) Thanks and good luck with this program.

### **Forth Response (email):**

Mike, please note that the e-mail below contains only my thoughts and no opinion or position from MFB. Please bring Kelly and I up to date regarding the Forest Legacy program. Best Regards. Mark Garnett

----- Original Message -----

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2002 11:56 AM  
Subject: Re: Forest legacy Program

Kelly, while I know very little about the 'Forest Legacy' program, I am against MDC buying additional easements. We have a Federal and State Budget problem. It makes no sense to me to spend money to buy additional 'conservation' easements unless they allow the private landowner to manage and harvest the resources within those easements. The money needs to go to private landowners to promote better land productivity, increased timber yield and quality, and value-added uses for timber. There are three reasons for this. Missouri led the nation in manufacturing jobs lost (as a percentage of current manufacturing jobs) last year. Every sawmill and secondary wood products processor is a manufacturer. So, we need to spend money to promote timber management on private lands to make sure that the raw material is available on those lands to attract the best markets for Missouri timber to Missouri and to create jobs for Missourians in Missouri. Second, if we continue to lose manufacturing jobs in Missouri and the tax revenues associated with those jobs, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that there will be increasing pressure to increase taxes for the remaining private landowners. Finally, MDC will readily admit that they do not have the resources in place to administrate the increased funding for all types of private land timber practices funded by the latest farm bill. We need to insist that they adequately administrate all services for private landowners before they expend resources to acquire additional conservation easements. I will find out more about the 'forest legacy' program and get back with you right after deer season. Best Regards. Mark

----- Original Message -----

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2002 9:30 AM  
Subject: Forest legacy Program

Mark,

Are you familiar with the new federal "Forest Legacy" program that will be administrated by MDC? I do not know all the particulars, but it would appear there is federal (and private) money available to buy permanent land easements from willing landowners. These easements would target specific environmental concerns and areas for Missouri forest land. The guidelines and land criteria will be put together by a group MDC is putting together. The group is made up of Govt. Agencies and Environmental Groups. Do you think this should be addressed by our Resolutions Committee at annual meeting? Without additional research, I would think we might have concerns about the easement process and the money used to buy the easements. Any comments? Kelly

## Invitation to Public Meetings

Landowner  
Address  
City, MO Zip

Dear Landowner:

You have previously expressed an interest in the Forest Legacy Program. Your opinions are valuable to us as we develop this program in Missouri. With that in mind, I'd like to invite you to participate in one of four public meetings scheduled to discuss the development of an Assessment of Need for the Forest Legacy Program in Missouri. This is a federal program that was established in the 1990 Farm Bill. The program is designed to protect valuable forest land from conversion to non-forest uses. It uses conservation easements as the primary tool to protect forest land. The Assessment of Need will establish the criteria used to evaluate the values and threats to forest land and establish Forest Legacy Areas in the state. Only land within a Forest Legacy Area will be eligible for participation in the program. The program is totally voluntary so participation is up to individual landowners.

If you would like more information on the program or would like to provide input into the development of the program in Missouri, please attend one of our public meetings. The four public meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, April 1; 7-9 pm at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center (SW corner of Hwy 60 and Hwy 65 junction off the outer road at Glenstone and 60 Hwy)

Monday, April 5; 7-9 pm at the Commons in Salem, Missouri (Hwy 72 approx. 1 1/2 miles north of the 72/32 Junction on the west side of Hwy 72)

Thursday, April 8; 7-9 pm in Camdenton at the Conservation Department Office (N Hwy 5 approx. 3 miles from Hwy 54 jct. Left on Lake Road 588 (Thunder Mountain Road) at Bridal Cave sign. 3/4 mile to the office on the right)

Monday, April 19; 7-9 pm at the Education Center at East Central College in Union, Missouri (Hwy 50 east of Union).

For additional information about these meetings, please contact me at: 573-522-4115 ext 3307 or by email at: [mike.hoffmann@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:mike.hoffmann@mdc.mo.gov)

Thank you for your interest in the Forest Legacy Program.

NEWS RELEASE from...

**THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**



**For Immediate Release**

March 23, 2004

**Contact**

**PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS AREA FORESTS**

Missouri's forests are valuable for a variety of ecological, economical and social reasons. Since 84 percent of Missouri's forests are privately owned, it's important that forest landowners have options for managing and protecting the forest land they own. The Forest Legacy Program can provide one such option for Missouri landowners who want to protect their forest land while they continue to own, manage and use it.

Area landowners and those interested in the conservation of forest land can learn more about this program at a public meeting that will be from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, April 5 at the Commons in Salem, Missouri. This is one of four public meetings to be held at select sites across the state to discuss the Legacy Program.

The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to ascertain and protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The program was authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill and is administered by the U.S. Forest Service and state and private forestry agencies and organizations. It seeks to protect land, traditional forest uses, riparian areas, recreational resources, wildlife, scenic resources, and cultural values utilizing conservation easements as the program's primary tool. (Conservation easements are legal agreements between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limit the uses of the land to protect its conservation values, while the landowner continues to own and manage it.)

Before the tracts of privately owned Missouri forest land can be considered for federal funding, a state-wide assessment of need must be completed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. A major component of this assessment program is public input – which will be obtained at the public meetings. For additional information about this proposed program, individuals can call Department of Conservation Forest Management Chief Mike Hoffmann at the Department of Conservation's Central Office in Jefferson City, 573-751-4115, ext. 3307. Individuals can also e-mail Hoffmann at [mike.hoffmann@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:mike.hoffmann@mdc.mo.gov)



# Protecting forests

## Department of Conservation to hold meeting on Forest Legacy Program in Camdenton

**LAKE OF THE OZARKS** – The Department of Conservation is calling for input from all forest landowners concerned about their property's management and protection.

Missouri's forests are valuable for a variety of ecological, economical and social reasons, according to Department of Conservation Forest Management Chief Mike Hoffmann.

Since 84 percent of Missouri's forests are privately owned, it's important that forest landowners have options for managing and protecting the forest land they own, Hoffmann says.

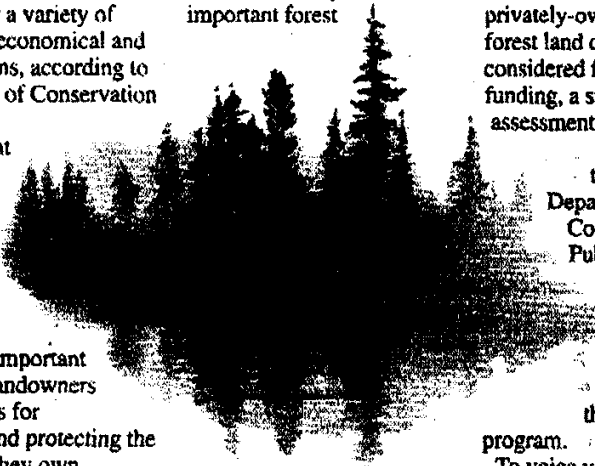
The Forest Legacy Program can provide one such option for landowners who want to protect their forest land while they continue to own, manage and use it.

Area landowners and those interested in the conservation of forest land can learn more about this program at a public meeting from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, at the Department of Conservation in Camdenton. This is one of four public meetings to be held at select sites across the state to discuss the Legacy Program.

The meetings will present information about the

input about its viability and method of implementation in the lake area and the state.

The purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to ascertain and protect environmentally important forest



areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

The program was authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill and is administered by the U.S. Forest Service and state and private forestry agencies and organizations.

It seeks to protect land, traditional forest uses, riparian areas, recreational resources, wildlife, scenic resources, and cultural values utilizing conservation easements as the program's primary tool. Conservation easements are legal agreements between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limit the uses

conservation values, while the landowner continues to own and manage it.

The program is voluntary and the value paid for easements will be based on appraisals.

Before the tracts of privately-owned Missouri forest land can be considered for federal funding, a statewide assessment of need must be

completed by the Missouri Department of Conservation. Public input obtained at the public meetings is a major component of this assessment

program.

To voice your opinion on the program, attend the April 8 meeting at 7 p.m. The Department of Conservation's Camdenton office is located on Bridal Cave Road (Lake Road 5-88).

*For additional information about this proposed program, call Hoffmann at the Department of Conservation's Central Office in Jefferson City, 573-751-4115, ext. 3307. Individuals may also e-mail Hoffmann at [mike.hoffmann@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:mike.hoffmann@mdc.mo.gov)*

### **Input received from information distributed at Public Meetings**

54 Responses Received. Average age of respondents who indicated age: 49.5 years. Most of the respondents were from the St. Louis area, with 28 from St. Louis County, 18 from Franklin County and 5 from Jefferson County. The remaining responses were received from Dent County (2) and Taney County (1).

1. Do you support the preparation of a Forest Legacy Program Assessment of Need in Missouri? If not, what are your concerns about the program? **Yes - 54; No – 0**
2. What do you feel are the most important considerations to identify Forest Legacy Areas in Missouri? (forest tract size, proximity to developing areas, special or unique features, scenic features, presence of T&E species, watershed protection, clean water, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, etc). **Wildlife habitat - 31; Presence of T&E species – 30; Proximity to developing areas – 22; Special or unique features – 16; Watershed protection – 16; Clean water – 15; Forest tract size – 10; Scenic features – 5; Recreational opportunities - 1**
3. What do you consider to be the greatest threat to the loss or conversion of forest land in Missouri? (ie. Commercial development, residential development, urban sprawl, forest fragmentation, conversion to agricultural uses, forest health problems (insects and diseases), natural disasters, etc.) **Urban Sprawl – 42; Residential development – 40; Commercial development – 39; Forest fragmentation – 9; Conversion to agricultural uses – 7; Forest health problems – 3; Natural disasters – 2.**
4. Could you support the use of conservation easements to protect forest land from conversion to non-forest uses? **Yes – 53; Probably – 1; No – 0**
5. If Missouri participates in the Forest Legacy Program, would you support the use of state funds as a partial match for federal funds used to acquire conservation easements? **Yes – 54; No – 0**
6. Are there specific regions or areas of the state that should be included in a Forest Legacy Area? Why? **St. Louis area particularly south and west and Jefferson County – 31; Around urban areas – 4; Mark Twain NF – 1; Ozarks, bottomlands, protection of migratory routes and endangered species – 1; All regions of the state - 1**
7. If you are a forest landowner, would you consider participating in the Forest Legacy Program if your property were eligible? **Yes – 34; No – 0; N/A - 20**
8. Do you believe that the Department of Conservation is the appropriate agency to administer the Forest Legacy Program in Missouri? **Yes – 54; No -0**
9. Do you believe that active forest management can provide for long-term forest health, productivity and sustainability? **Yes – 52; No – 0**